



**LOOK
INSIDE FOR
DETAILS:**

- The RARS General Meeting is the 1st Tuesday of each month.
- The RARS net meets every night @ 8 pm on 146.64.
- The RARS Technical and Trader's net is Saturdays @ 8:30 pm or following the RARS net.
- RARS meets for a monthly dinner on the 2nd Tuesday of each month.

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society's **EXCITER**

May 2007

Issue No. 434

Thanks for a Great RARSfest 2007!

**Article by Hank
Montgomery
K4HM,
RARS Hamfest
Chair**

WOW – What a difference from previous years. By all accounts, RARSfest 2007 was a tremendous success! The move to the Exposition



Center provided just the right size, and it was a much more attractive environment. This made a big impression on those attending the hamfest, and all the reports I have heard were wonderful. I have not received a single negative comment from anyone attending the hamfest. And in spite of the downward trend over the last 12 years, RARSfest attendance was actually up this year. While the final numbers are not in yet, it is apparent that any fears of a financial loss are over and the RARSfest budget will be in the black again this year.

While the new venue provided a good first impression, the real key to the success of RARSfest is the volunteers who put in many hours to make everything work smoothly. The fact that there were no complaints speaks volumes as to how good a job the membership did. You, the volunteers who worked at the hamfest, scored an A+ in making RARSfest what I think is the friendliest hamfest around.

(Continued on page 6)

RARS Officers

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The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society

The Raleigh Amateur Radio Society, Inc. (RARS) was founded in 1969 and continues to serve and support the Amateur Radio community in the greater Triangle area. In 1999, the society incorporated a new RARS and obtained 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status.

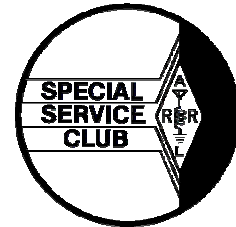
The objectives of the club are to promote worldwide friendship through amateur radio; to be of public service by providing radio communications in

times of disaster, emergency, or civic need; to educate members in radio technique; and to provide training classes to assist in obtaining amateur radio licenses.

Anyone interested in amateur radio is eligible to apply for membership. Due for regular licensed amateurs are \$18 per year (from July 1 through June 30). Additional immediate family members pay \$5 each per year. Dues for licensed ama-

teurs older than 59 or younger than 16 are \$12 per year. Dues for non-licensed associate members are \$9 per year.

Applications for membership may be obtained from the treasurer or the RARS website (RARS.org).



The Exciter

The *Exciter* is the official newsletter of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society. It appears each month as a PDF on the RARS website at www.rars.org. Members receive email notification when the latest version is available.

Please provide your email address to the Treasurer.

The *Exciter* welcomes articles, advertising, and other contributions. To submit a piece to the newsletter, please contact the Editor.

The views expressed in the *Exciter* are those

of the individual authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Editor or RARS. The Editor reserves the right to edit any and all pieces.

Editor:

Courtney Enzor

KI4HOS

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RARS Happenings

Visit the RARS website for up-to-the-minute announcements, current information, and special features at www.rars.org.

May RARS Meeting

The May RARS Meeting program will be a presentation by Gary Pearce on the 2006 USA ARDF Championships. There will also be walk-in VE testing at this meeting. We hope to see you there!

RARS General Meeting

Date: First Tuesday of each month

Location: Forest Hills Baptist Church
201 Dixie Trail
Raleigh, NC 27607

Time: People begin arriving at 7 pm.
The meeting officially starts at 7:30 pm.

RARS Monthly Dinner

Join us on the 2nd Tuesday of each month for the RARS dinner. It's open to everyone: RARS members, non-members, friends, and family — feel free to bring your little ones!

Golden Corral @ 6129 Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh. Dinner begins at 6:30 pm.

VE Testing

The RARS VEs will accept walk-in testing at the February, May, August, and November RARS meetings; the RARSfest in April; the Cary Swapfest in July; the JARSfest in November; and following RARS license classes.

Please bring a photo ID, your current license, a copy of your current license, and any CSCEs you have for credit. Visit www.rars.org for more information.

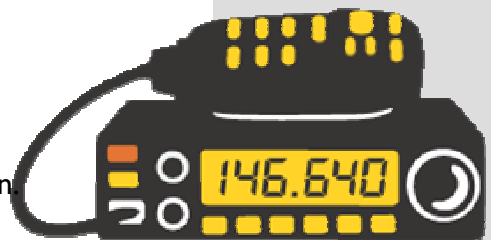
RARS Repeaters in Raleigh

145.13 (82.5 PL)

146.64

444.525 (82.5 PL)

Join us for the nightly RARS net @ 8 pm on the 146.64. All hams holding a Technician class license or higher are invited to check-in. We welcome both RARS and non-RARS members to the net.



RARSfest 2007 Contest and Door Prize Winners

Marc Franco	N2UO	Homebrew 1st Prize	Lauren Conder	KA4LHC	Fox Hunt Prize
William Lund	KB4ISJ	Homebrew 2nd Prize			
William Stewart	K4JYS	Homebrew 3rd Prize	Ron Kruk	K4SRK	Preregistration Prize
Ed Fitzpatrick	W8MFS	Homebrew Honorable Mention	Bob Selvy, Jr.	N4LFP	11:00 am Drawing
			Mike Barts	N4GU	12:00 pm Drawing
Johnnie Mayfield	WA9SZL	QLF 1st Prize	Clif Jones		1:00 pm Drawing
Marc Franco	N2UO	QLF 2nd Prize	R. E. Cheek	KC4YIN	2:00 pm Drawing
Rick Kelly-Crapse	KB4TKQ	QLF 3rd Prize	Craig Whitfill	K5TBZ	3:00 pm Drawing
Rahul Kapoor, New Delhi, India	VU2YK	QLF Honorable Mention	Perry Brown		50/50 Drawing

Report on RARSfest VE Test Session

Article by Liz KO4CK and Joe WA4GIR White

The '07 RARSFest VE test session was a busy one. We had 55 people who tested with us. Of the 55, 14 failed to upgrade. That is not too unusual for a hamfest because often there are people who decide on a whim to give it a try when they have not prepared. We administered 64 exams and of those, 40 received passing grades. The number of failures is not truly indicative of the abilities of those testing as we encourage examinees who pass an element, particularly when they miss very few questions, to take the next exam even though they did not study for it. Our reasoning is that often they know more than they realize, plus it gives them an idea of the type of questions that are on the next testing level. Of the 41 who upgraded, 7 upgraded to

Extra class, 27 to General class, and 7 became new Technician class hams.

Like the fest itself, exams were in a new location this year, and it seemed to work out OK. Once people got the word that they could not exit through the exam area, nor enter except to take an exam, things went smoothly. We would like to thank our wonderful, dedicated team for doing their usual outstanding job. The session started at 9:30 and ended shortly past 11:30. It was a bit of a push to get everyone processed and cleared out because we had to vacate the area for a forum, but we did it thanks to the efforts of our team.

It was great to have Neal feeling fit and able to help after all he has been through. We were also pleased to have Julia Royster on

the team as a full-fledged VE – she had been participating as a General class, but since she

passed her Extra exam (congratulations!) on March 24, she was able to participate at all levels.

We will be giving exams at the May club meeting, then at the Cary Swapfest on July 21.

Thanks again to our team:

- Fred Breidt AG4WE
- Charlie Brown W4VFJ
- Neal Fisher N4HAF
- Rod Gilvey AB4RG
- Chuck Hall AE4CD
- Jim McRight KB4BZ
- Larry Royster KI4FYR
- Julia Royster KI4OTM
- Bob Starkenburg W4TTX
- Lars Stromberg AF0AA

Welcome New RARS Members!

John Johnson	No license
Russel Kandel	KE4IFE
James McGrath	KB2IYS
Glen Whitehouse	K1GW

Hamfest Calendar

May 12	RCARC Hamfest & Computer Show Reidsville, NC
May 18-20	Dayton Hamvention Dayton, OH
May 26	Durhamfest Durham, NC
June 9	Hamfest Winston-Salem, NC
July 7	Firecracker Fest Salisbury, NC
July 21	Cary Swapfest Cary, NC

Dates courtesy of *SERA Repeater Journal* and other sources. If you would like your event listed in the *Exciter*, please contact the Editor.

April Birthdays

John Robert	KG4HGB	5/4
Liz	KO4CK	5/5
Dave	KD4THS	5/5
Larry	KG4FIQ	5/5
Larry	W4WIV	5/5
Bonnie Hiltenbrand		5/7
Wayne	K6TWX	5/8
Hank	K4HM	5/8
Alanna	K4AAC	5/8
Hughie	KF4RDU	5/8
Christopher	N4VGK	5/9
Nancy	KB1HIX	5/10
Brian	KA9QJT	5/10
Chuck	AE4CD	5/12
Ed	WA4PEN	5/13
Chris	KE4TMO	5/17
Chris	KI4PBQ	5/17
Larry	K1ZW	5/20
Tom	K4ZAD	5/21
Lynn	KG4LTM	5/27
Courtney	KI4HOS	5/27

March 2007 RARS Net Reports

RARS Two Meter Traffic/Ragchew Net
 Check-ins: 480
 Traffic: 27/24
 Minutes: 773
 Sessions: 31

Special Interest Nets
 Check-ins: 82
 Minutes: 344
 Sessions: 13



Above: Some CAP cadets building J-pole antennas. All photos courtesy Gary Pearce.

I especially want to thank several new planning committee members this year – they did a great job. Glen Whitehouse K1GW managed the test station and J-pole building station; Ken McEwen KI4OTO handled talk-in; Steve Mowels KA0GMY ran the N4C Special Event station; Steve Ferrarini KJ4BX took over pre-registration and the flea market; and Dennis Keith NC4DK took care of security.

The J-pole building table was a last minute addition in 2006 and so we were able to promote it more this year. As a result, it stayed busy all day – so much so that we had to purchase additional materials from our vendors twice. Participants practiced the basic skills of working with wire and solder to create a working antenna. You can be sure this activity is a keeper.

The N4C Special Event station was another busy location. Steve Mowels KA0GMY did a great job as control operator for the station. The station was located near the RARSfest entrance, and with Steve as the control operator, it was available for anyone with or without a license to operate. See Steve's report on page 9.

Again this year we had several dealers selling new radios, antennas, and related amateur radio equipment. All of the dealers I spoke with were very happy with this year's hamfest.



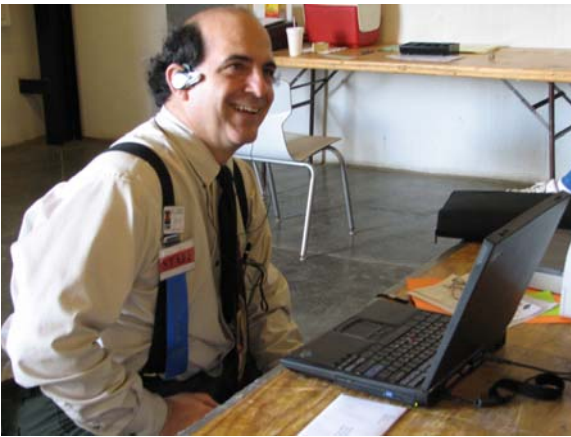
Above: Steve KA0GMY introducing HF to a future ham.



Above: Our radio dealers seemed to stay busy.

Ken McEwen KI4OTO stepped in to do talk-in this year. He was supposed to be getting a break in this picture but stayed on the job (maybe because the relief worker didn't know how to find the hamfest). Ken did get some real help from John AI4RT, but he spent most of the day on the repeater.

Cyndi didn't have much time for skating this year because she stayed busy providing information and handling 50/50 tickets at the stage. She is our top seller for 50/50 tickets every year. Her OM, Gary KN4AQ, manages the stage with assistance from Cyndi KD4ACW and Chip WB4ZVA.



Above: Steve KJ4BX handled every pre-registration and every table sale.

Steve was one of the new planning committee members this year. His job starts early in the process because he has to handle all the pre-registrations that come by snail mail and online orders on the website, as well as lay out the table assignments. Then on hamfest weekend, he has to find places for those who buy tables at the door. As well as being a busy job, this can be tough when someone is not satisfied with their table location. But Steve managed to keep everyone happy – great job, Steve!



Above: Ken KI4OTO gives up his talk-in seat to let K4HM can sit a spell.

There just aren't enough words, and there isn't enough room here, to thank everyone who helped make the 2007 RARSfest a great success – folks like Mary Jo K4MJL, who manages the Saturday evening social each year; Greg KE4PAX who manages the finances with Mike WA4BPH; Chuck K4HF, "Mr. Hamfest," who has been involved in every one of the 35 RARSfests; Doug Sweet AD4UL who comes from Florida every year to spend his weekend working at RARSfest; the VE team headed by Joe and Liz White; all of the RARSfest planning committee; and all of the workers who volunteered their time – these are the folks who really made the hamfest such a success again this year. And lest I forget, Gary KN4AQ took lots of pictures at RARSfest and I hope to have many of them on the website soon.



Above: Cyndi KD4ACW – The Pink Roller Blade Lady.

Lastly, like Yogi Berra said, "It ain't over till it's over." Let's not forget about the workers' party! Everyone who volunteered time to support RARSfest is invited to attend this gala event on Saturday, June 16th at Lake Crabtree Park. More information about this will be available in the near future.

**73 & Thanks for a GREAT
RARSfest 2007!**

● ● ● President's Corner ● ● ●



**Column by Selene Montgomery
KG4RMT, RARS President**

RARSfest 2007 has come and gone, leaving many positive comments in its wake. Our appreciation goes to the Hamfest Committee, who have worked on the planning and execution since last summer, and to all who helped in any way to make the hamfest a success. The Hamfest Social was also a huge success thanks to Mary Jo Littlewood and her helpers, and all who brought food to share with our vendors. Now it's our turn to support other hamfests throughout the year by attending and encouraging their efforts.

The next big event on the RARS Calendar is Field Day on June 23 & 24. Under the leadership of Neal Fischer K4HAF and Chip Mack WB4ZVA, the weekend offers a variety of radio opportunities whether you're a new or seasoned ham. You can operate on any band, regardless of license class, under the direction of a control operator.

There have been many public service opportunities over the last two months. Thank you to all who have given of their time and talent to show others a little of what amateur radio can do. There are more such activities in the months ahead so please consider helping when you can.

RARS has been faced with challenges over the last few months, and the Board of Directors has committed itself not only to fiscal responsibility, but also to doing what it can to keep RARS supportive of all that is good about the Amateur Radio Service. We need everyone's help to accomplish our goals. Together we can achieve what would only be an individual's dream. To keep up with RARS activities, attend the membership meetings, take in a board meeting (members are always welcome), join the RARS-L mailing list and/or the RARS Yahoo! group, listen to/check into the nightly net on the RARS '64 repeater for announcements and news, and join us for the RARS monthly dinners.

Happy springtime to all!



Report on Special Event Station N4C

Article by Steve Mowels KA0GMY

On April 1st 2007, I had the great pleasure of operating the special event station, N4C, at RARSFEST. It was to commemorate the 35th Annual RARSFEST. I had asked to help with the station last year and this year they gave me the opportunity. They let me be the control operator. As I arrived at the ham fest on Sunday I found that Hank (K4HM) had it all set up and ready to go. So all I had to do was get on the air. The station consisted of a Kenwood 440 and a tuner into a 20/40-meter dipole up about 20 feet. They had certificates to hand out to the guest operators, and if any of the stations you talked to showed up, they had certificates for making contacts.

As we got started, the band was noisy but got better as the morning went by. I did notice that there were a couple of scooters at the hamfest, and every time one of those went by, it caused some noise. But all in all, the band was not too bad.

We started on 20 meters and managed a couple of contacts. Shortly after getting set up and on the air, we had our first guest operator. KB7NLA dropped by, and while his friend went to test, he stuck around and made several contacts. The station brought a lot of attention and it was not long before I heard, "Where is my certificate?" I looked up and there was WI4ITL from Virginia Beach who we had talked to on his way into the festivities. He got his certificate and then sat down and proceeded to be a guest operator.



Above: KB7NLA operates the special event station. Photo courtesy Gary Pearce KN4AQ.

I am not going to bore you with all the contacts but I do have a favorite that I want to share with you. As the station was being run by KB7NLA, a young man and his father stopped by. I was explaining the setup to the father when I found out that the young man and his sister had both tried for the TECH ticket but had not had any luck. There was not really a look of disappointment on the young man's face but in talking with him you could tell he had wanted to get his ticket. So as we talked, I let him sit down and try his hand at operating the HF station. Well needless to say, he was nervous, so I got on and called CQ for him. We got lucky — XE4IL came back to us and I informed him that I had a young person wanting to talk with him. Louis was very patient and proceeded to talk with him and then also talked with his sister. Well to make a long story short, it was a great pleasure to see the smiles on their faces as they talked to Mexico and had fun. It also made the whole event worthwhile — we may just get a couple new hams out of the ordeal.

We made 28 contacts and had 9 guest operators.

NC ARES Hams Meet in Raleigh

Article by Gary Pearce KN4AQ, Wake Co. ARES PIO

Here's a quick review and a few comments on the statewide NC ARES meeting held at the State EOC in Raleigh on March 31, the Saturday before the RARS Hamfest. Several dozen EC's and other ARES appointees and guests attended the meeting. Most came from the eastern 2/3 of the state. The meeting was chaired by **NC SEC Bernie Nobles WA4MOK**. Bernie introduced several speakers who made presentations.

Before the speakers began, **John Gurriero KG4HDT, EC for NCEM**, welcomed everyone to the newly revamped State EOC in Raleigh. The room has been upgraded with plenty of audio/visual display capability, and the "fishbowl" communications center has been moved out to another part of the basement to make more room. But the biggest change hams familiar with the EOC would notice is that the huge map of North Carolina is gone, replaced by projection screens.

First up was **Jeff Orrock KI4KKX, NWS Raleigh Warning Coordinator**. Jeff noted that the 2006 Hurricane season was quieter than expected because of a surprise "El Niño" in the Pacific that calmed activity in the Atlantic, and kept hurricanes that did develop away from the coast. This year, the la Niña is back in effect in the Pacific, and more hurricane activity is expected in the Atlantic, along with a sustained Bermuda High that could make the climate warmer and drier across the southeast. Jeff also said that spotter reports are useful for more than immediate watches and warnings – they are part of the statistics that the NWS uses to show how accurate the system is. Not surprisingly, the severe weather forecasts are better in areas of denser population where more reports are received.

Next up, **NC Section Manager Tim Slay N4IB** commented on the ARRL NERPC Committee's recently released report on Amateur Radio's ability to respond to widespread or national emergency situations. The committee's full report is available on the ARRL web site. Tim's highlights included the need for hams to be able to respond faster to fill the immediate need, before the various communication utilities restore their service (and they're getting faster!). The committee also noted that ARES, and Emergency Management in general, is decentralized and organized from the "bottom up." That's good most of the time, but it doesn't scale up well in widespread or national disasters. The committee recommended creating some higher level ARES positions, including one at Headquarters, to oversee wider area situations.

Bob Conder K4RLC, AEC Wake County ARES, spoke on the Red Cross background checks issue, and also gave some background on the possible Avian Flu Pandemic. Some hams have been concerned following the announcement that the Red Cross would require fairly invasive background checks on all volunteers, apparently including hams. Bob said that the RC has revised their policy in a couple ways. First, a "spontaneous" volunteer doesn't need background check (that's a volunteer who assists with a specific event for no more than 7 days). And volunteers associated with a "partner" organization, like ARES, don't need background checks if they are only wearing ID of their organization, and not a Red Cross ID. Those volunteers would be limited in what jobs they can perform for the Red Cross, and Bob also noted that a Red Cross ID is widely recognized and will get volunteers into affected areas more easily than IDs from some other organizations.

A flu pandemic (a worldwide outbreak with significant loss of life) could last for months and affect the communications grid as technicians are unavailable to maintain the systems. No one has immunity to the Avian Flu, and there are no vaccines. Everyone, hams included, can take precautions such as obtaining a two-week supply of N95 Particle Respirators (masks) and washing your hands really well.

David Williams KF4CQS, the New Hanover Co. EC, discussed the NC ARES Digital Plan. David is leading a new committee to try to make some progress on a long-stalled effort to supplement the voice/cw nets with a digital system. He said that the ARRL recommends Winlink 2000 for digital communications, though he didn't go into detail on what the capabilities were. There were some negative comments about the fact that the Pactor III element of Winlink 2000 is supported by only one manufacturer and is fairly expensive. NC Emergency Management has been asking for a digital system from ham radio for years, but has declined to fund it.

My comment is that NC ARES has never achieved the "critical mass" of hams interested and equipped for effective data operations. Not enough hams are interested, a few actively oppose it, and those who are interested are split among a variety of incompatible modes. Evidence of the last point appeared at the meeting as discussion spun into the technical details of one mode vs. another until WA4MOK brought things back on track (to a scattering of applause). This has held back what could be an extremely effective tool in emergency communications. I hope the new effort is successful.

Dave Roy W4DNA, NC Traffic Manager, also referred to the NERPC report, noting that hams have to get better at handling traffic. With a nod to the digital plan, he admitted that "what our customers want today is to be able to get into the Internet when the lines go down," but added that until that gets all built, we still need NTS radiograms. Dave said that the biggest challenge NTS has in North Carolina is traffic delivery into some, mostly rural, parts of the state.

Dave also said that the #1 reason hams don't want to get involved in NTS was the redundant traffic – the "don't forget to renew your license" stuff that originates from a few stations and fills the traffic nets. A few hams in the meeting complained about that traffic, but Dave noted that NTS still can't deliver even that simple traffic in some parts of the state. Dave would like to see a SET style NTS training event.

Pat Gorman KE4WZY, DEC for Areas 3&4, made a pitch for using 10 meter SSB for local emergency communications. All hams can now use 10 meter SSB, and Pat claims that he can achieve far beyond county-wide coverage with 100 watts and a vertical antenna – 70 miles from base to mobile. Carteret County ARES is building a 10 meter system to supplement HF and VHF in that area.

Tarheel Emergency Net manager Dave Fleming KE4JHJ was unable to make the meeting. Bernie reminded everyone that the primary frequency for THEN is 3923 kHz, and the net meets nightly at 7:30 PM. He'd like to see more activity. I'll add that during emergencies when the net operates around the clock, it moves to 3927 kHz in the morning to join the NC Morning Traffic Net, while 3923 is used by a ragchew group that's been holding forth on that channel for decades. That switch doesn't make sense to me, but tradition can be hard to fight. In the daytime, when 75 meters usually fades well below statewide coverage, the net may move to 40 meters. The published frequency is 7232 kHz, but since THEN has no routine presence there, it may have to move up or down the band a bit to avoid other activity. I asked about 60 meters, and Bernie noted that he's done a bit of operating there and daytime coverage is usually good. But NC ARES has no formal plans for using that band.

Finally Bernie noted that he's looking for a statewide Training Officer to plan, staff, and implement operator training across the NC Section. Anyone interested should contact Bernie Nobles or Tim Slay.

The NC Section website is www.ncarrl.org.

Board Meeting - March 2007

Minutes of the RARS Board of Meeting for March 2007

The Board of Directors meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on March 20, 2007 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

Attendance: Board – Selene Montgomery KG4RMT, Hank Montgomery K4HM, Chuck Littlewood K4HF, Charlie Swindell WB4DCM, Rod Thomson KI4LSN, Rick Crapse KB4TKQ, Gary Pearce KN4AQ, and Dick Orander KD4ISC.

Vice President Selene Montgomery KG4RMT called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

On a motion from Charlie WB4DCM and a second from Chuck K4HF, the February Board meeting minutes were approved as corrected.

Vice President's report – Selene KG4RMT advised:

- Donations for meeting refreshments are still helping to offset costs to the club.
- Certificates for last month's awards ceremony have been mailed to those who were not present at the meeting.
- The April program topic will be on SKYWARN and weather threats in central NC. A special election for the president and vice president positions will be held then.

Treasurer's report – Selene KG4RMT read the report provided by Greg Seamster KE4PAX. There are 246 RARS members.

Committee Reports

Education – Chuck K4HF provided an update in Virginia Enzor's (NC4VA) absence. There may be some good news soon on a location to hold the next Technician class. Mike Murphy WA4BPJ has agreed to help cover the classes that Dick Bitner W8HYD taught. Chuck will also pick up the text books recently delivered to Dick's home.

(Continued on next page)

Board Meeting - March 2007

Exciter – Selene KG4RMT reported that 8 members have been assigned to members who will print and mail copies of the newsletter to them.
Public Information – Gary KN4AQ advised he will provide PR for the hamfest.

Webmaster – Hank K4HM reported that he has made hamfest updates to the club's webpage for Steve Worley KB4HDQ. He has also added an article about Dick W8HYD.

Hamfest – Hank K4HM advised an insert will be included in the hamfest program in memory of Dick W8HYD. Pat Hensley N4ROS will attend RARSfest in place of Dennis Bodson W4PWF from the Roanoke division of the ARRL. Online orders for tickets and tables continue to come in. This will be the last year that a Friday setup will be available to us. The fairgrounds will charge for a setup day in years to come. A later date in April is being pursued for next year's RARSfest. The next hamfest committee meeting will be on March 26 at Gary's (KN4AQ) home.

Public Service – Dick KD4ISC thanked the club for the plaque he was given at the last general meeting in recognition of his contribution to public service. The MS Walk in RTP and the State Odyssey of the Mind Tournaments will be covered later in the month. The Tour de Cure will take place in June and is being coordinated by the Carolina Helping Hams. It was also noted that many non-RARS members have been participating in the recent public service events.

ARRL Liaison – Chuck K4HF commented on a recent article on a 'Super Hamfest.' He also reported that he has assisted with filing a SK notice for Dick W8HYD with the ARRL.

At Large – Charlie WB4DCM expressed concern over the need to look at alternative sites and ideas for holding our hamfest.

Old Business

Gary KN4AQ advised there are no updates concerning the W4JYV estate equipment donation mentioned during the January meeting.

(Continued on next page)

Board Meeting - March 2007

Selene KG4RMT reminded members to work on their job descriptions for review by the group.

The group was reminded of the special election to be held to fill the vacant president's position and pending vice president's position.

New Business

None

General Comments

None

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Submitted by Dick Orander KD4ISC, Secretary

General Meeting - April 2007

Minutes of the RARS General Meeting for April 2007

The general meeting of the Raleigh Amateur Radio Society was conducted on April 3, 2007 at the Forest Hills Baptist Church located on Dixie Trail.

Vice President Selene Montgomery, KG4RMT, called the meeting to order at 7:35 pm.

Selene welcomed everyone to tonight's meeting and thanked all of those who participated in Sunday's RARSfest. She then provided the following announcements:

- The next RARS dinner will be on Tuesday, April 9, at 6:30pm at the Golden Corral on Glenwood Avenue.
- The following hamfests are scheduled: Catawba - April 21, Rockingham - May 12, Dayton Hamvention - May 18, 19 and 20, Durham - May 26, and Winston Salem - June 9.
- VE testing will be available at the May meeting.

The following guests were recognized and welcomed to the meeting: John Johnson, Troy Bourdon, Rye Gewalt K9LCJ, Rudolph Coronado KG4QEY, and Robbie Foust KI4TTZ.

Dick Orander KD4ISC read a card from Dick Bitner's (W8HYD) family expressing their thanks and appreciation for the membership's expression of sympathy and concern after Dick's death. He then read an email from Msgt Steve Jakes KG4SIY who expressed his appreciation to the RARSVE team and to all involved in RARSfest. Steve came to the hamfest to complete the paperwork for an upgrade to General and left with his Extra CSCE. Dick then reported on the MS Walk at RTP and State Odyssey of the Mind Tournament public service events that were covered in March. He thanked all who participated and asked the membership to thank them with a round of applause.

Hank Montgomery K4HM provided an initial summary of Sunday's RARSfest 2007. He declared the hamfest a success and thanked all who worked to make it so. The J-pole building table stayed very busy throughout the day and the special event station attracted a good crowd, especially new hams.

(Continued on next page)

General Meeting - March 2007

(Hamfest report continued) Attendance was actually up this year and the bottom line should be met. The membership provided a standing ovation in thanks to a job well done.

Chip Mack WB4ZVR invited everyone to participate in this year's Field Day activities. Set up will begin on Friday, June 22 and the event will run through Sunday, June 24 at the usual location at the Carroll farm. Seven bands and a GOTA (Get On The Air) station are planned for the event.

Chris Thomson KI4MMV advised the next JOTA (Jamboree On The Air) will be on October 20 this year. She asked that those interested in helping check their calendars and contact her. There were over 50 scouts who earned their Amateur Radio Merit Badges at last year's JOTA event.

David Crawford KF4VXJ announced a Shearon Harris drill will be conducted sometime this month. ARES participation in the drill is expected. Everyone should monitor for the event and participate as requested.

Greg Seamster KE4PAX provided the Treasurer's report. There are 248 RARS members.

Selene KG4RMT thanked everyone for their donations to the refreshments fund.

Andy Peterson NI4S presented certificates to the winners of the 2006 HF Challenge:

- Little Pistol – Chuck Littlewood K4HF
- Limited (all CW) – Bob Conder K4RLC
- All Rag Chews – Ray Albers K2HYD

Door prizes were won by: Ashby W5PGX, Charlie WB4DCM and Rye K9LCJ.

The floor was given to Chuck Littlewood K4HF for conducting the special elections for club president and vice president. Chuck advised that last month the nominating committee had recommended Selene KG4RMT for the position of president and Rick Crapse KB4TKQ for vice president.

(Continued on next page)

General Meeting - March 2007

The president's term will run for the remainder of the year to fill the vacancy left by the death of Dick Bitner W8HYD. The vice president's term will run through next year to fill the vacancy left by Selene moving to the president's position. The floor was opened for additional nominations. None were offered. A motion was made by David KF4VXJ to record a unanimous vote for the recommended nominees. A second was provided by Charlie WB4DCM and the vote carried in favor of the motion.

The floor was given to Virginia Enzor NC4VA who provided an interesting program on SKYWARN and weather threats in central North Carolina.

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Attendance: 46

Dick Orander, KD4ISC
RARS Secretary.



The **RARS Technical & Trader's net** is held on Saturday evenings on the 146.64 after the 8 pm RARS net.

Amateur Radio Nets



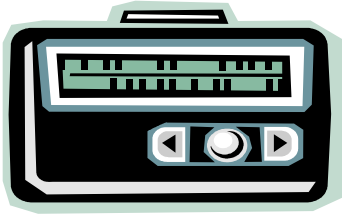
The **VOIP Hurricane net** is held Sundays at 00:00 UTC on the 146.775 repeater with a tone of 88.5 (IRLP node 4260). For information about activation details, go to www.voipwx.net.

Please join us on the **Carolina 440 net** every Monday night at 7:30 pm. This ragchew net utilizes the Carolina 440 UHF Link Repeater System. Comprised of the Raleigh, Down East, and Costal Wilmington link systems, there are currently 19 repeaters on the system, covering 21,168 square miles. For a list of these repeaters, please visit www.carolina440.net.



CAROLINA 440
UHF Link System
www.carolina440.net

If you would like your net information included in the *Exciter*, please contact the Editor.



Join the **Tarheel Short Wave Listening (SWL) Special Interest Group (SIG)** net on Monday evenings @ 9 pm on 146.64. We discuss *all* areas of radio monitoring and welcome your logs! We also have a SWL/SIG meeting on the third Monday of the month in addition to our regular net.

Central Carolina SKYWARN

Please join us each Tuesday at 9:15 pm on the 146.88 repeater for the CCS net. On each net there are announcements, check-ins by county, and often a program or training spot. Check us out at www.centralcarolinaskywarn.net.

Upcoming CCS Information nets include:

May 1 — “Highlights of the April 15th Severe Weather Event” by Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Orrock KI4KKX.

May 22 — “2007 Atlantic Basin Hurricane Outlook” with Warning Coordination Meteorologist Jeff Orrock KI4KKX; National Hurricane Awareness Week.



Central Carolina SKYWARN Frequencies

- Primary: 146.88 (no tone)
- First Backup: 147.105 (tone 82.5)
- Second Backup: Carolina 440 UHF Link System (for those frequencies, please visit www.carolina440.net.)

The **Mercury Amateur Radio Association Southeast 2 Meter Net** meets at 9 pm on the 145.13 repeater (tone 82.5).

All stations are invited to participate in this net. MARA provides emergency communication support to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The purpose of this net is to assist ham radio operators in preparing to respond to emergencies, test their equipment, improve operating skills, pass traffic, and to provide those with a common interest an opportunity to meet.



The **Wake County ARES net** meets Thursdays around 2115 on the 146.88 repeater. We provide discussion and training for the implementation and provision of Emergency Communications for our served agencies, such as the American Red Cross and the local and state Emergency Operations Center. Please join us. www.wakeares.org.

MERCURY
AMATEUR
RADIO
ASSOCIATION **MARA**

The RARS

Exciter

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Raleigh, North Carolina 27619

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Public Service: MS Walk

Thanks to everyone to helped at the recent MS Walk. We couldn't do it without you! Be on the lookout for more public service opportunities.



Above: Mark (WD4KSE) and son Sam (KI4FUD) Freeze sport their new T shirts from the March 24 MS Walk at RTP.



Above: The ham crew prepares for the MS Walk out at RTP.